



Science, Technology, & More!



Marking Period One

Honors Energy Policy Project

Energy is the lifeblood of modern technology. No car is any good without fuel to run it; no appliance is useful without electrical energy; no portable device works any longer than its battery lasts. America has created an infrastructure to provide fuel for our engines and electricity to appliances, and this system rarely fails. Nonetheless, many experts believe that this system, while effective now, is not secure in the long run. All technology depends on natural resources and the tools to transform and deliver them. Candidates of both political parties have proposed changes to the energy policy of the United States.

The Wikipedia community describes energy policy this way:

A national energy policy comprises a set of measures involving that country's laws, treaties and agency directives. The energy policy of a sovereign nation may include one or more of the following measures:

- statement of national policy regarding energy planning, energy generation, transmission and usage
- legislation on commercial energy activities (trading, transport, storage, etc.)
- legislation affecting energy use, such as efficiency standards, emission standards
- instructions for state owned energy sector assets and organizations
- active participation in, co-ordination of and incentives for mineral fuels exploration (see geological survey) and other energy-related research and development
- fiscal policies related to energy products and services (taxes, exemptions, subsidies ...
- Energy security and international policy measures such as:
 - international energy sector treaties and alliances,
 - general international trade agreements,
 - special relations with energy-rich countries, including military presence and/or domination.

Frequently the dominant issue of energy policy is the risk of supply-demand mismatch (see: energy crisis). Current energy policies also address environmental issues (see: climate change). Some governments state explicit energy policy, but, declared or not, each government practices some type of energy policy. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_policy, accessed 09/14/2008, 4:05 p.m. EST)

The Congressional Research Service provides a comprehensive overview of energy policy issues in an article archived at http://www.policyalmanac.org/environment/archive/crs_energy.shtml.

Your task is to investigate one aspect of the American energy infrastructure and recommend policies that will keep our energy supply system secure through at least the next decade. You may focus on securing access to the natural resource, building the tools that would transform that resource, or the technologies that use that resource. This assignment does not ask you to build a comprehensive energy policy, but rather to focus on one specific change that would improve our energy security.

You should spend the first two weeks exploring the scope of energy policy topics, looking for ideas that capture your interest. After this period of exploration, you must provide a short statement of the energy policy you will recommend. At that time, you will be given guidelines for researching and presenting your proposal.

Your short statement will be due on Monday October 20, 2008.

Your final policy recommendation will be due on Monday, November 3, 2008.